

ENTIRELY NEW POSTAL SYSTEM

The Joint Commission Appointed
Two Years Ago Will Submit
Plan to Congress.

A Director of Posts, With Seven Assistants, to Take Charge of Postal System if the Report of the Commission is Adopted.

Washington.—The four offices of assistant postmaster general will be abolished; a director of posts with seven assistants provided for, and the entire postal service of the United States divided into fifteen separate districts. If the bill for the revision of the postal laws which is being prepared by the joint postal investigation commission, appointed two years ago, is passed by congress.

It is claimed that a director of posts appointed to hold office until removed for cause, and who shall receive a high salary, will tend to improve the service through a continuity of policies for the benefit of the service.

By providing for seven assistants, the disadvantages due to frequent changes and the appointment of inexperienced men to the four offices of assistant postmaster general can, it is believed, be obviated. The assistant directors are also to hold office during good behavior.

To perfect the system of management, the provision for fifteen superintendents to have direct charge of the fifteen separate postal districts, has been decided upon. Another provision of the bill is the assignment of certain duties now performed by the third assistant postmaster general to a commission of appeals. This commission would issue all fraud orders and pass upon the admission to the mails of second-class matter. The modification of the postal laws is also a part of the work required of the commission.

THE PASSING OF BIGGY.

Man Who Had Charge of Abe Ruef for Eight Months Is Drowned.

San Francisco.—William J. Biggy, chief of police of this city, was drowned late Monday night while returning across the bay in the launch Patrol. Chief Biggy had been at Belvedere, a suburb, to call on Police Commissioner Kell, who resides there. He boarded the launch to return to the city about 10 o'clock, and when the boat was out on the bay complained of feeling cold to Engineer Murphy, the only other occupant of the launch. Murphy advised Biggy to go to the cabin at the stern of the boat. That was the last he ever saw of the chief.

William J. Biggy was appointed chief of police by Mayor Taylor after the latter had been placed in the office following the removal of Mayor E. E. Schmidt. Biggy succeeded Jeremiah Dinan, formerly a detective sergeant. When Abraham Ruef was arrested the prosecution asked that Biggy be appointed elisor and be given the custody of the prisoner. For eight months he held this position and at the expiration of that time was appointed chief of police in September, 1907.

Ever since the suicide of Morris Haas, the man who attempted to kill Assistant District Attorney Francis J. Heney, and later took his own life at the county jail, the relations between Chief Biggy and the graft prosecution have been strained to the breaking point. Charges and counter-charges have been filed by both parties to the controversy in the attempt to fix the blame for the fact that Haas had or secured a pistol while in jail.

Russia's Red Record.

Chicago.—That in the years 1905 and 1906 50,000 revolutionists were killed by soldiers of the czar and 250,000 were sent to Siberia, was asserted by Longor Gorus, a member of the second duma, when he took the witness stand to testify in behalf of Christian Rudowicz, whom the Russian government is seeking to extradite on a charge of murder. He declared that 7,000 of the government's forces were killed during the same period, and 5,000 spies were "executed" by the revolutionists.

Edward Vanderbilt Sane.

New York.—After having been declared insane a year ago, and incompetent to manage his affairs, Edward Vanderbilt, husband of the spiritualist, Mary Ann Scanlan Pepper Vanderbilt, has been declared sane by a sheriff's jury. Three commissioners appointed by the supreme court to conduct the trial concurred in the verdict. The inquiries into Mr. Vanderbilt's mental condition were initiated by his daughter, Miss Minerva Vanderbilt, following his marriage to Mrs. Pepper in June of last year.

Bystander the Victim.

Philadelphia.—Richard Burke, a bystander, was probably fatally wounded and Andrew Loneragan was shot in the arm in an exciting pistol fight with George Medway in front of the Bellevue Stratford hotel Monday night. According to the officers Loneragan and Medway had a dispute Saturday night over the proceeds from the sale of tickets for the army and navy football game which they had been "scalping" together. The men met at night and the fight was renewed.

BULGARIA IS PREPARING TO RESIST TURKEY'S DEMANDS

Good Finances and a Good Army Will Enable Bulgarians to War for Independence.

Sofia.—M. Malinoff, president of the council, has made the following statement concerning the present situation in Bulgaria:

"The chances of a direct understanding with Turkey are not now great, but the present government views the situation with optimism. As matters stand, Turkey is bound to see sooner or later the futility of work at cross purposes, which will only result in bringing herself under the control of others. Turkey recently has been wholly under foreign guidance, but she will not gain security until she gains the friendship of Bulgaria. This is realized by many enlightened Turks, including Kiamil Pasha, who is a great statesman.

"Good finances and a good army enable Bulgaria to resist exorbitant demands of Turkey and await confidently recognition of independence, which it is believed will occur in the near future. The Bulgarians prize independence highly, being convinced that it is a momentous step in the life of the nation, which it is bound to take at the first opportunity. Bulgaria found its opportunity in the revolutionary movement in Turkey by the young Turks. The Macedonian question continues to affect Bulgaria vitally."

OPERATOR NOT TO BLAME.

Jury Fails to Convict Man Charged With Causing Train Wreck.

Thompson, Mont.—A verdict of not guilty was brought in by the jury in the case of the state against G. A. Mitchell, the telegraph operator charged with criminal negligence, alleged to have resulted in the fatal wreck at Olive last September, when passenger train No. 5 and freight train No. 58 crashed together on the Northern Pacific. Mitchell has been in jail here since the time of the wreck and his trial in the district court has been the feature of the week. The grand jury was out but two hours. Mitchell was in charge of the office at Parma at the time of the wreck. The trial of Dispatcher Keeley of Missoula will begin during the week.

THREE THOUSAND HOMELESS.

High Waters Drive Oklahomans From Their Homes.

Guthrie, Okla.—As a result of a forty-eight-hour downpour in the valley of the Cottonwood river and its tributaries, the Cottonwood overflowed here Sunday afternoon.

Several hundred homes were partly under water in West Guthrie and 3,000 persons were homeless at night. The river at 6 o'clock was one foot higher than ever before in its history. So rapid was the rise in the Cottonwood that twenty head of cattle by the affected district were drowned before they could be gotten out of the waters. Street car service was soon completely at a standstill. The city's water plant is under water.

FALL OVER PRECIPICE.

Skeleton Thought to Be That of Montana Man Who Has Been Missing For Several Years.

Helena, Mont.—Reports from Wolf Creek state that a skeleton has been found about twenty miles from that place at the foot of a precipice where it had evidently fallen. The report has not yet been confirmed and Coroner Bennett has not been notified. Harry Heath, a Unionville man, has been missing for several weeks, and it is thought that the skeleton is his.

Severe Wind Causes Collapse of Building in Montana Town.

Laurel, Mont.—J. E. Johnson was killed and two other workmen seriously injured on Saturday as the result of the collapsing of the side of a building which was being erected here to be used as an ice house by the Northern Pacific. A severe wind caused the wall to topple and the three men were caught. Johnson was a resident of Minneapolis, where he leaves two daughters. The other workmen were cared for and are resting easily.

Fell From Chimney.

Paterson, N. J.—As his playmates looked on with pride and amazement, Andrew Schler, 8 years old, scaled a tall chimney of an abandoned brewery here and stood for a moment triumphant at the top. Then, to the horror of the boys and girls who watched him from the street below, he plunged downward to his death. Almost every bone in his body was broken. Children who witnessed the tragedy say that the old bricks in the chimney crumbled under the boy's weight, causing him to fall.

Labor Trouble Settled.

Denver, Colo.—Through the efforts of Arthur Price, national president of the Marble Workers, the trouble between the local union of Marble Workers and the W. R. Thompson Manufacturing company, which resulted in a strike last May, and filing subsequently of a suit for \$50,000 damages, to which the American Federation of Labor officials were made party defendants, has been settled. The Thompson company's works will be unionized, and the damage suit will be withdrawn.

HUNDRED VICTIMS OF MINE DISASTER

Explosion in Coal Mine Which Had Just Been Inspected by Deputy State Mine Inspector.

Either a Pocket of Gas or the Seepage from a Gas Well Was the Cause of Accident Which Caused Fearful Loss of Life.

Pittsburg.—More than 100 men were killed by an explosion in the Marianna mines of the Pittsburg-Buffalo Coal company on Saturday, which entombed a large number of miners.

About fifty of the victims, it is reported about the mine, were either Americans or English-speaking men. A majority of the foreigners were comparatively new arrivals in the country, many of them having left families in their old homes.

The workings in which the catastrophe happened are known as the Rachel and Agnes mines, in reality a double mine with underground connections. Construction work was practically finished and Deputy State Mine Inspector Henry Loutitt a few minutes before the explosion had completed a two days' inspection which had revealed no cause for apprehension.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined. Two theories are entertained. One is that a pocket of gas was struck by one of the miners, quickly filling the workings and then igniting from a lamp. The other theory is that gas from a well on the Fulton farm, under which the mine is located, penetrated the workings. The land in the vicinity is said to be gaseous and it is possible gas may have seeped through the coal stratum until it accumulated in sufficient volume to cause the disaster.

So great was the force of the explosion that shattered portions of the woodwork about the mouth of the shaft were blown into Ten-Mile creek, 2,000 feet away. Besides the three men in the cage, portions of at least two other bodies were blown from the shaft house and were found in a field nearby.

CONVICTED OF WIFE MURDER.

Jury Finds Thomas Vance Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

Salt Lake City.—Thomas Vance, charged with murdering his wife, was found guilty by a jury on Saturday afternoon, the jury returning a verdict of murder in the first degree. It was charged that Vance beat his wife and in addition gave her poison. It was at first thought she had died from the effects of the beating, while an effort was made by the defense to show that she took poison with suicidal intent as a result of the harsh treatment of her husband. Notice of an appeal has been given.

Revolutionists Have Best of One Battle in Hayti.

Port au Prince.—Government troops, under command of General Cyranoque, minister of war, composed largely of young recruits, who were sent out to capture the leader of the new revolution, General Antoine Simon, have met with a severe defeat. The engagement took place at Anzeveau, which lies about fifty-five miles to the east of Jeremie, one of the affected ports. After severe fighting the government forces were routed and driven back to Miragoane, about twenty miles distant.

American Cattle Under the Ban.

Ottawa, Ont.—Canada is taking the greatest possible precautions to prevent the foot and mouth disease from gaining a foothold in the dominion. An embargo has been placed on live stock and hides in the affected states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Delaware, and guards have been stationed at the railway and highway crossings of the international boundary to enforce this prohibition. The Canadian government has passed an order in council which will close Canadian water routes to American cattle.

Extension of Colorado Southern.

Council Bluffs, Iowa.—General G. M. Dodge said Saturday that the Colorado & Southern, as soon as financial conditions permitted, would close the gap of fifteen to twenty miles in its line south of Cheyenne, Wyo., and extend its line north of Cheyenne which now reaches Orange Junction, Wyo., some 350 miles further to a point on the Yellowstone, where it would connect with the St. Paul and the Hill lines. This connection will give a continuous line from Galveston, Texas, to Edmonton, Canada.

Disbarred Attorney Kills His Prosecutor.

Portland, Ore.—J. A. Finch, an attorney who was disbarred from practice for one year by the State Bar association, shot and killed Ralph B. Fisher, a young lawyer who had been designated to act as prosecutor for the Bar Association in the case against Finch. Finch went to Fisher's office in the Mohawk building. He entered Fisher's private room and fired three shots at his prosecutor, one bullet taking effect in the temple and killing Fisher instantly.

STEAMER STRUCK REEF AND WENT TO BOTTOM

Estimated That a Hundred Passengers and Crew of Ill Fated Vessel Were Drowned.

Manila.—The coasting steamer Ponting, carrying a large number of laborers from Narvancan to the rice fields in Pangasinan province, struck a reef and sank Friday night during a storm off the town of San Fernando, in Union province. It is estimated that a hundred of the passengers and crew of the Ponting were drowned. The steamer Viscaya rescued fifty-two.

A patrol of constabulary which was established immediately after the accident picked up fifteen bodies and many others have since come ashore. It is not known whether any Americans or Europeans were aboard the wrecked steamer.

DEPUTY SHERIFF MURDERED.

Ogoen Man Shot Down Without Warning by Unknown Criminal.

Ogden.—Deputy Sheriff Seymour L. Clark of Weber county was shot and instantly killed by a highwayman near the depot at Uintah early Friday evening. The bandit also wounded Deputy Sheriff J. J. Murphy and an Italian who was with the officers. The murderer is still at large.

Poses from Ogden and the surrounding country, together with most of the members of the Ogden police force and the sheriff's staff, are searching for the desperado in the country surrounding Uintah.

The two officers had been called to the residence of Timothy Kendall, near Uintah, to get the Italian, who was ill. On their way back to Ogden they encountered a suspicious character. Clark began to question him, when the unknown man opened fire, Clark falling dead with three bullets in his body, while Murphy and the Italian were also wounded, and their team ran away. Murphy fired several shots at the murderer, but it is not believed either shot took effect.

MANIAC MURDERS TWO.

Both Victims Shot Down Near Same Place by Mysterious Assassin.

Eureka, Cal.—The mystery surrounding the shooting of Bart Porter, a hunter, who was murdered on Thursday while seated, gun in hand, on the bank of a lake near here, was intensified by a second murder on Friday under identical circumstances. Porter was shot down by a concealed assassin. Huntsmen rowing on the lake heard the crack of a rifle and saw him prostrate, with a bullet in his brain. Joseph Viera, Friday's victim of the assassin, was killed near the scene of the former tragedy, while he was walking through the woods. Men near by heard the report of a rifle and Viera's death scream. He had been shot through the head.

In both instances mushroom bullets were used. At neither time was the assassin seen. It is the general opinion that the murders were committed by a maniac.

Says Price of Oil Was Reduced by Standard.

New York.—Detailed information of the magnitude and diversity of the Standard Oil company's business was given by John D. Archbold, vice-president of the company, on the resumption of his testimony on Wednesday in the hearing of the federal suit to dissolve the oil combination. Mr. Archbold asserted that it was the Standard which, by eliminating the jobbers and retailers, stepped in and greatly reduced the price of oil to consumers. The hearings were adjourned after a brief session until Monday.

Minister to Nicaragua Resigns.

Washington.—John Gardner Coolidge, American minister to Nicaragua, has tendered his resignation. It is reported in Managua that Mr. Coolidge took this step because of disapproval of his government in meddling with the internal affairs of Nicaragua. The archives of the legation have been placed in charge of John H. Gregory, Jr., the secretary of the legation. It is declared in the most authoritative way that nothing Mr. Coolidge has done while in that country has met with disapproval except the entering of his resignation, which has been accepted with regret.

Must Get Permission or President in Future.

Washington.—That there shall be further public discussion by naval officers concerning the Newport conference without permission of the president, is the purport of an order issued Friday by Secretary McCall by direction of the president. On October 30, the department issued a permit to officers to discuss the work of this conference, except so far as it applied to changes to be made on ships to be authorized in the future.

Escaped from Revolutionists.

Port au Prince.—General Leconte, who was reported a few days ago to have been killed at Jeremie by the revolutionists, has arrived here. He got away from Jeremie in a rowboat with four officers and two sailors and after being at sea for three days without provisions finally succeeded in reaching land at Petit Grove. The general declares that the reports that three men had been put to death at Jeremie on his orders were unfounded. Leconte has resumed the duties of minister of the interior.

MRS. LUKE E. WRIGHT

CABINET HOSTESS A TYPICAL SOUTHERN GENTLEWOMAN.

Wife of Secretary of War the Daughter of Admiral Semmes, Famous Confederate Naval Leader—Was Ten Years in Orient.

Washington.—The cabinet circle of hostesses received a decided acquisition in the addition of Mrs. Luke Edward Wright, wife of President-elect Taft's successor in the war department.

Mrs. Wright has passed the best part of the last ten years in the orient, and her estimate of eastern people is worth hearing. It is interesting to know that she formed some lofty friendships in the Japanese royal circle and that some unusual honors were paid her. She and the empress became quite chummy, and her majesty sent Mrs. Wright a beautiful colored photograph of herself with her august signature beneath. She had already bestowed gifts of bronze cabinet and embroidered gowns, laces and fine silks, but the autograph filled the court with awe. It is the first time since Commodore Perry forced Japan to open the country for American diplomatic and consular officers that the wife of any American official has been so honored. Mrs. Wright was astonished to learn that the writing of royalty is so highly prized in Japan and that had the empress conferred any of the orders of chivalry upon her or honorary degrees of any sort it would have been commonplace beside that photograph adorned with the royal signature. It is quite a joke in the family that when Mrs. Wright, with her customary modesty, inquired why the empress regarded her so highly,



Mrs. Luke E. Wright

the reply came back, because she talked so well.

Years ago the doughty commander of the confederate squadron, Admiral Raphael Semmes, said of this daughter, then Kate Semmes, and a noted belle of Mobile, that she was the best talker in the family and that it was a pity she was not a man so she could adopt law as a profession and convert her conversational powers into fame and shekels. That his opinion, so many years after, has received the endorsement of the most august woman in Japan is considered a noteworthy coincidence. Mrs. Wright has a chatty little way of telling things which makes the most commonplace occurrence seem thrilling. That she always talked with the empress through an interpreter, a difficult process always, makes the gift still more acceptable.

This photograph, in a gorgeous silver and gilt frame, will occupy the place of honor in the Wright drawing room this winter, and no doubt its history will furnish amusement for many a dinner company and the hordes of afternoon callers.

Mrs. Wright comes of a distinguished family of Mobile, Ala., the Semmeses, French in origin, which has been Roman Catholic for untold generations. She was brought up in that faith, while her husband is a Presbyterian. She was educated at a convent on the gulf coast and still retains a keen interest in her alma mater. In the Philippines Mrs. Wright was a fervent laborer in many church organizations and her home was frequently the scene of hospitality to the Roman Catholic clergy. Her successful efforts to aid the Philippine orphans received recognition at Rome during the late pontiff's regime. She received from him a handsomely illuminated white leather breviary, with the autograph and blessing of Leo XIII. on the fly leaf, accompanied by a gold medal surrounded with small gems.

Mrs. Charles H. Watkins, the elder daughter of the house, will spend the winter with her parents in Washington and will assume a large share of the social burden.

There are three Wright sons, two of whom are married. The Wrights cannot be counted among the very rich people in the executive set, but they have an income sufficient for the many demands on a new cabinet member.

UNITED STATES MAKES AN AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

Is Based on the Idea of Encouraging and Defending Free and Peaceful Commercial Relations.

Washington.—Despite official reticence, information from reliable sources has been obtained of an agreement of far-reaching importance between the United States and Japan covering the policies of the two countries of the Pacific. The agreement is based on the idea of encouraging and defending free and peaceful commercial development in that ocean. It contains not only a mutual guarantee to respect each other's territorial possessions there, but defines the attitude of the two countries toward China, each to defend by every peaceful means China's independence and integrity, and to give equal commercial opportunity in the Chinese empire to all nations. More important still, the agreement, in the event of complications threatening the status quo, binds the United States and Japan to consult each other with a view to acting together.

This agreement has been drawn up in the form of a declaration, and consists of five articles, of which the following is a faithful description:

The first article gives expression to the wish of the two governments to encourage the free and peaceful development of their commerce in the Pacific. The second is a mutual disclaimer of an aggressive design, and contains also a definition of the policy of each government, both as directed to the maintenance of the existing status quo in the Pacific, and the defense of the people of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China. The third article contains a statement of the consequent firm reciprocal resolution of each government to respect the territorial possessions in the Pacific of the other. In the fourth article the United States and Japan expressed their determination, "in the common interest of all the powers," to support "by all peaceful means at their disposal" the independence and integrity of China and the principle of equal commercial and industrial opportunity for all nations in the empire. The fifth article mutually pledges the two governments, in the case of the occurrence of any event threatening the status quo as above described, or the principle of equal opportunity as above designed, to communicate with each other for the purpose of arriving at an understanding with regard to the measures they may consider useful to take.

SLAIN BY HILLMEN.

Tragic Fate of Two Americans in Wilds of Philippines.

Chicago.—The tragic details of the murder by Filipino hillmen of H. D. Everett of the forestry service, and Tilden R. Wakely, a school teacher, were made public here on Friday by Ebenezer Wakely, father of one of the slain men. The elder Wakely has received reports completing the record of the crime and of the expedition which resulted in recovering the skeletons of the two Americans and two Filipinos who accompanied them.

Everett was engaged in forestry investigations in a sparsely settled and wild section of the island of Negros and was accompanied into the hills by Wakely, who wished to spend his vacation in the open.

From the hillmen captured and interviewed it was learned that the murders probably occurred on May 11, and that the deed was accomplished under the leadership of a chief named Ayhaio.

Ayhaio, in the guise of friendship, became the guide of the Everett party, and one night, just because "he felt like killing some one," he dragged the party with the fumes of the tanyuguy plant. He and his followers then fell upon their victims and slew them.

A Measure of Precaution.

Washington.—Directions have been cabled Commander Harbor, commanding the Pacific fleet at Manila, to send two of his vessels to the Yangtze river country, China, the vessels previously there having gone to Manila with the remainder of the Pacific fleet for target practice. This step is taken as a matter of precaution. The naval department always maintains two or more vessels in those waters. The gunboat Wilmington has left Cavite for Hong Kong, presumably on her way to the Yangtze.

Popular Bank Idea.

Manchester, N. H.—The organization of a "popular bank," patterned after institutions which have proved successful in Canada, but are said to have been undertaken in this city. St. Mary's church parish in this city. The bank officers features of both savings and co-operative organizations. Depositors may borrow to the extent of their savings, and further, according to their responsibility as determined by a board of advisers. The officers are selected from the shareholders.

Hitchcock to be Postmaster General.

Hot Springs, Va.—Frank H. Hitchcock has been offered and has accepted the position of postmaster general in the Taft cabinet that is to be. The official announcement, doubtless, will not be made until Mr. Taft has completed his cabinet. The selection of Mr. Hitchcock was made able for publication from either Mr. Taft or the Republican national chairman. There were reasons that pointed out, why it was expedient that Mr. Hitchcock's status should be fixed.